

Greeting Card Miter and Greeting Card

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 [0001] The present invention relates generally to wax tarts. Particularly the present invention relates to a wax tart-type component packaged and formed to display a message, a design or both. More particularly, the present invention relates to a wax tart-type component displaying a message, a design or both, and a greeting card.

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2. Description of the Prior Art

[0002] The use of wax for candles has been around for several centuries. However, it was not until the Middle Ages when beeswax was introduced. More recently, the 18th century whaling industry brought the first major change in candle making. Spermaceti, a wax obtained by crystallizing sperm whale oil, became available in quantity.

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[0003] It was during the 19th century when most major developments affecting contemporary candle making occurred when a machine was invented to allow continuous production. Further developments occurred around 1850 with the production of paraffin wax made from oil and coal shales. With the introduction of the light bulb in 1879, candle making declined until the turn of the century when a renewed popularity for candles emerged. With the increase of crude oil and meat

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production, also came an increase in the by-products that are the basic ingredients of contemporary candles; paraffin and stearic acid.

[0004] Today, candles symbolize celebration, mark romance, define ceremony, and accent décor. Candles are available in a variety of sizes, colors and scents.

5 Some candles are made with several scents while others are packaged in glass jars, glasses, tin cups, etc. Also available are wax tarts, which have no wick. Wax tarts are made in the shape of a fruit tart, hence, the term “wax tart.” Wax tarts are molded, removed from the mold and wrapped in a clear plastic wrap to allow a customer to visually see the shape and color of the wax tart. A label is applied to the
10 clear plastic wrap indicating the scent of the wax tart. Typically, a wax tart is placed in a wax burner, which is a potpourri type of holder with a location for a votive candle. The votive candle is used to heat and melt the wax tart causing the wax tart scent to be dispersed into the air.

[0005] The use of greeting or occasion cards to transmit a sentiment has long
15 been recognized. Greeting cards are available for virtually any holiday or special occasion from an ever-increasing number of annual holidays to a wide variety of special days for a particular individual or to cards which may be sent for no particular occasion. Typically, such a card bears a chosen phrase reflective of the sentiment sought to be transmitted. Greeting cards range from simple, inexpensive printed
20 cards, to more elaborate and expensive cards. Greeting cards also include novelty cards, which play music, light up, or contain moving mechanisms. While receiving a card of any kind is a positive experience, receiving an elaborate or novelty card is an

unusual or even extraordinary event in the lives of most people. By way of example, several novelty cards known in the art are disclosed.

[0006] U.S. Patent No. 4,200,222 (1980, Feuer) discloses a greeting card with removable decal. The removable decal is secured to one side by adhesive. A
5 foldable side with an opening having the general outline of the decal, but of smaller perimeter, allows viewing of the decal when the card is folded closed and also assists in maintaining the decal in viewable register with the opening in the card.

[0007] U.S. Patent No. 4,152,865 (1979, Ikeda) discloses a greeting card with holding toy. The holding toy is preferably in the form of an animal having limbs,
10 which are spring-loaded in order to secure the holding toy in place upon the card. The card has decorative indicia on the surface thereof providing a setting for the holding toy. The card is also formed with a cut out portion to receive the holding toy within the outline of the card surface adjacent the decorative indicia.

[0008] U.S. Patent No. 4,787,160 (1988, Balsamo) discloses a greeting card
15 confetti delivery system. The card includes a rupturing adhesive on the inside of a leaf opposite a confetti packet attached to a different leaf. A removable protective coating or covering prevents the confetti packet from contacting the rupturing adhesive when the untriggered card is opened. Removal of the covering triggers the card so that when it is opened thereafter the confetti packet ruptures.

20 **[0009]** U.S. Patent No. 3,077,981 (1960, Gaspard) discloses a greeting card in the form of a cylinder made of a suitable material having nonflammable or flame resistant properties and being transparent or translucent in nature. The cylinder transmits light from a source such as a candle, contained therein and which, in turn,

is contained within a second cylindrical container manufactured from similar material and capable of sliding up and down within the second cylinder to facilitate the lighting of the candle. The outer container is characterized by colored designs appropriate to the greeting involved so that, when the candle is burning, the designs become
5 illuminated by the candle flame burning within the inner candle container.

[0010] U.S. Patent No. 4,035,937 (1977, Rosenfeld) discloses a candle with integral cardholder. The candle has on the periphery thereof circumferentially spaced, vertical ribs respectively provided therein with circumferentially spaced, vertical, opposed grooves which face each other circumferentially and which are
10 adapted to receive vertical edges of a card, or similar article.

[0011] A device known as a candle card has also been available. The company Sourire at www.sourire-nyc.com sells a product known as the Kwanzaa Candle Card that is illustrative of such candle cards. The candle card has an unattached layer of 100% bees wax folded over the card itself. The unattached bees wax layer is ready
15 to be rolled by the recipient into a hand-made candle.

[0012] As evidenced from the previous discussion, a considerable amount of thought has gone into expanding the already wide variety of greeting cards available. Yet, there are unfulfilled areas of expansion that other types of gifts typify. Accordingly, there exists in the greeting card art a need for a new greeting card
20 concept.

[0013] Therefore, what is needed is a greeting card concept that provides a wax-based gift bearing a chosen sentiment. What is further needed is a greeting card

concept that provides a wax-based gift, which is not a candle, bearing a chosen sentiment and a greeting card combination.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 **[0014]** It is an object of the present invention to provide a greeting card concept having a wax component packaged into disposable mold and which displays a message, a design, or both that can be used as a greeting card. It is another object of the present invention to provide a greeting card concept having a wax component that can be used as a melter/wax “tart” for potpourri-type wax burners. It is a further
10 object of the present invention to provide a greeting card concept having a wax component that can be used as a melter/wax “tart” for potpourri-type wax burners in combination with a greeting card.

[0015] The present invention achieves these and other objectives by providing a greeting card melter having a panel enclosure consisting essentially of a shaped
15 recess and a flange, a closure panel releasably secured against the mold panel, and a molded wax body having only a wax formulation disposed in a cavity defined by the shaped recess and the closure panel. The molded wax body substantially conforms to the shape of the cavity. The flange optionally includes a hanging opening that permits hanging of the greeting card melter in a retail display environment. The wax
20 formulation used to make the wax body contains a predefined fragrance. Although the panel enclosure may be solid, it is preferably transparent or translucent. The shaped recess also preferably contains a message, a design, or both integrally formed within the shaped recess.

[0016] In another embodiment of the present invention, the greeting card melter is combined with a greeting card. The greeting card typically has a leaf of the card configured to receive and secure the greeting card melter. The leaf may include a sleeve or pocket for receiving and holding the greeting card melter. The sleeve or
5 pocket may, optionally and preferably, include a window so that the greeting card melter is visible. The window is especially useful in portraying any design or message contained by the wax body and/or panel enclosure.

[0017] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, there is disclosed a greeting card system. The greeting card system includes a selection of various
10 greeting card melters, each greeting card melter having a message, a design or both specific for a particular occasion, and a selection of greeting cards configured for use in combination with one of the greeting card melters to form a novelty greeting card. Both the greeting card melters and the greeting cards are displayed in a retail environment to allow the consumer to mix and match greeting card melters and
15 greeting cards.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the present invention showing the greeting card melter.

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[0019] FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view of the present invention shown in Fig. 1.

[0020] FIGURE 3 is a cross-sectional view of the components of the greeting card melter invention.

[0021] FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a combination
5 greeting card melter and a greeting card.

[0022] FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of another embodiment of a combination greeting card melter and a greeting card.

10 **[0023]** FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of another embodiment of a combination greeting card melter and a greeting card.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0024] The preferred embodiment(s) of the present invention is illustrated in Figs.
15 1- 6. Figure 1 illustrates a greeting card melter **10** having a panel enclosure **12** consisting essentially of a shaped recess **14** and a flange **16**. Panel enclosure **12** is preferably made of a plastic material that may be transparent, translucent or solid, but may be made of any other material such as, for example, metal, wood, paper, cardboard, etc. Flange **16** may optionally include a flange opening **18** to permit
20 hanging in a retail display environment. Shaped recess **14** contains a wax body (not shown). Shaped recess **14** has a sentiment **22** displayed on a recess surface **15** that is appropriate for the occasion. Recess surface **15** may also include various

symbols **23**. Sentiment **22** may be a label (transparent, opaque or solid) attached to surface **15**, imprinted directly on to surface **15**, or preferably formed into recess surface **15**. A closure panel **20** is releasably secured against panel enclosure **12** to hold the wax body within recess **14**.

5 **[0025]** Turning now to Figure 2, there is shown a cross-sectional view of the present invention. Panel enclosure **12** includes the sentiment **22** formed into recess surface **15** and is represented by a series of raised surface portions **15a** that form the desired sentiment **22**. Wax body **30** is enclosed within recess **14** and conforms to the shape of recess **14** and recess surface **15**. Wax body **30** consists essentially
10 of a wax formulation that typically includes a fragrance. Wax body **30** of the present invention may contain any fragrance or combination of fragrances, including those fragrances used for aroma therapy, and may also include different fragrances that are layered horizontally or vertically. Wax body **30** has a thickness that preferably allows wax body **30** to be broken up by hand into smaller pieces for placement into a
15 wax burner. Wax body **30** is held in recess **14** by closure panel **20**.

[0026] Figure 3 shows a side view of greeting card melter **10** where the individual components are separated for clarity. As can be seen from Fig. 3, panel enclosure **12** has shaped recess **14** forming a cavity **17**. Flange **16** preferably surrounds the periphery of recess **14** to provide a back surface **19** to which closure panel **20** can be
20 releasably secured. Wax body **30** has a front wax body surface **32** that conforms to the shape of recess **14** including any raised surface portions **15a**.

[0027] Figure 4 illustrates one embodiment of a greeting card and greeting card melter combination **100**. This embodiment includes a greeting card melter **10** and a greeting card **50**. Greeting card **50** is a bi-fold card having a front leaf **52** and a back leaf **56**. Front leaf **52** has a window portion **53** in which is mounted greeting card melter **10**. In this example, greeting card melter **10** has sentiment **22** providing the expressed sentiment typically provided by conventional greeting cards. Back leaf **56** typically includes conventional phraseology found in greeting cards.

[0028] Figure 5 illustrates another embodiment of greeting card combination **100**. This embodiment is also a bi-fold card more typical of conventional greeting cards except for placement of the greeting card melter **10**. Like the embodiment in Fig. 4, this embodiment includes a greeting card **60** having a front leaf **62** and a back leaf **66**. Front leaf **62** includes the conventional messages and symbols of predefined greeting cards. Back leaf **66** includes a sleeve portion **68** configured for receiving and holding greeting card melter **10** in place. Inside surface **67** of back leaf **66** has a predetermined message displayed along with any optional designs or it may optionally include a window **69** in inside surface **67** through which the greeting card melter **10** is displayed. Greeting card melter **10** is illustrated in phantom lines to indicate one method of inserting and withdrawing greeting card melter **10** into and from sleeve portion **68**.

[0029] Turning now to Figure 6, there is illustrated yet another embodiment of greeting card combination **100**. This embodiment of greeting card combination **100** includes a tri-fold greeting card **75** having a first leaf **80**, a second leaf **85** and a third

leaf **90** and greeting card melter **10**. Tri-fold greeting card **75** may be a Z-fold or accordion fold, or it may be a two panel fold over that is achieved by folding third leaf **90** over onto second leaf **85** followed by folding first leaf **80** over and onto third leaf **90**. In the illustrated embodiment, front leaf **80** includes the conventional messages and symbols of predefined greeting cards. Third leaf **90** also typically includes conventional phraseology found in greeting cards. Second leaf **85** includes a sleeve portion **86** configured for receiving and holding greeting card melter **10** in place. Inside surface **87** of second leaf **85** has a predetermined message displayed along with any optional designs or it may optionally include a window **89** in inside surface **87** through which the greeting card melter **10** is displayed. Greeting card melter **10** is illustrated in phantom lines to indicate one method of inserting and withdrawing greeting card melter **10** into and from sleeve portion **86**. It should be understood that any one of the three leafs **80**, **85** and **90**, respectively, may be configured to receive greeting card melter **10** and any configuration of greeting card and greeting card melter and method of configuring the greeting card to removably receive the greeting card melter are within the scope of the present invention.

[0030] The preferred method of making greeting card melter **10** includes obtaining or molding panel enclosure **12** having a recess **14** and a flange **16**. A hot wax formulation is poured into recess **14** and allowed to cool forming wax body **30**. Recess **14** imparts its shape including any molded sentiment **22** or design **23** to wax body **30**. An advantage of molding wax body **30** directly into recess **14** is that as the wax cools, it shrinks making removal of wax body **30** from recess **14** easy. Once

wax body **30** is sufficiently cool, a closure panel **20** is releasably secured to panel enclosure **12** to retain wax body **30** within recess **14**.

[0031] Greeting card melter **10** may then be incorporated into greeting cards and sold as a single unit. Optionally and preferably, a plurality of greeting card melters **10** and a plurality of specially designed greeting cards **100** configured to receive at least one greeting card melter **10** are displayed in a retail environment forming a greeting card system. The greeting card system allows the consumer to select a combination of greeting card melter and greeting card that the consumer believes best conveys the consumer's sentiments. By using the greeting card system, the consumer is able to give an elaborate or novelty card that includes giving a gift in the form of a greeting card melter that can be used by the recipient of the card. While receiving a card of any kind is a positive experience, receiving the novelty card of the present invention will be perceived as unusual or even extraordinary to most recipients.

[0032] Although the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described herein, the above description is merely illustrative. Further modification of the invention herein disclosed will occur to those skilled in the respective arts and all such modifications are deemed to be within the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.